A Tribute to Mohinder Singh Salh
"In Loving Memory of Daddy"
(1942–2024)"

Paanch Tat Ko Tan Rachio, Jano Chatar Sujan

Jeh Te Upjio Nanaka, Leen Tahin Meh Maan

Sri Guru Granth Sahib (1426)

This perishable body is composed of five elements, ether, air, fire, water and earth. These five elements disintegrate and dissolve after death. Then why not remain anchored in the Immortal Jot, Atam, tuned with the Lord? Only then the link of the jot with the Param Jot is established and Bliss experienced.

Mohinder Singh Salh (1942–2024) was a dedicated Gursikh and scholar, revered for his deep understanding and knowledge of **Gurmat** and **Gurbani**. His life was a testament to an unwavering devotion to **Dhan Guru Nanak Ji's teachings** and the Sikh faith. Guided by the spiritual atmosphere around him, S.Mohinder Singh Ji felt an early calling to serve the Sikh community, using his expertise in Gurbani (the sacred hymns of the Sikh Gurus) to make the teachings accessible to all.

His mission was deeply rooted in both spirituality and academia. Singh Ji committed much of his life to translating the divine wisdom found in the **Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji** and other Sikh scriptures, working tirelessly to make these texts comprehensible to those who couldn't read or understand **Gurmukhi**. His contributions were not mere academic exercises but reflections of his heartfelt desire to help others connect with the spiritual essence of Sikhism.

With Love 💞

Daddy,

It's difficult to find the words to fully express our gratitude for everything you have been to us. You have been our guiding light, our source of strength, and the one who has always believed in us, even when we didn't believe in ourselves. Through every challenge, your wisdom and unwavering support have shown us the way, just as a beacon lights the path for those lost in the dark.

Your life has been a testament to the power of faith, service, and selfless dedication. You have always walked the path of devotion and knowledge. Your humble service, whether in our family or in the community, has been a living expression of the love and compassion that flows from the Waheguru Ji's teachings. In your actions, you bridged the gap between spiritual wisdom and the practical, everyday lives of those around you.

Your handwritten translations of Gurbani, which brought the wisdom of Sikhism to countless souls, you have always shared your insights with us, teaching us to live with love, humility, and the pursuit of truth. Your commitment to the spiritual path, combined with your dedication to helping others grow, has inspired us and many others. You have been a quiet force in our lives, shaping us through your example rather than through words alone.

The legacy you leave behind is one of devotion, service, and faith in the Guru. Through your actions and your unwavering belief in the transformative power of Gurbani, you have touched hearts and souls, guiding us in ways that words can scarcely capture. You've shown us that true strength comes not from material success, but from a life of service, compassion, and deep faith in the Guru's teachings.

Thank you, Dad, for being our greatest teacher, our most steadfast supporter, and the embodiment of love and faith. Your legacy will live on in the hearts of those you've touched, reminding us all of the enduring power of devotion, service, and the unwavering love for the Guru.

we know, you are here with us, watching over us, always.

With all our love,

Skinder Pal (wife)

Sharnagat (Daughter)

Gursharan (Daughter)

Harsimran (Daughter)

Early life

(In this cherished moment, he stands alongside his beloved wife and childhood friends, Lt. LCol. Gurmel Singh and Lt. S. M. Singh. A testament to lifelong bonds and shared journeys, this photo captures the warmth of companionship and the enduring strength of friendship."

S Mohinder Singh Ji was born in 1942 in **Ghungrali'Sikhan**, Punjab, to his father, **Amar Singh**, and mother, **Basant Kaur**. Singh Ji attended **Government High School** and went on to pursue higher education at **AS Khanna College**. In 1969, he married **Skinderpal Kaur**, with whom he had three daughters. Throughout his early years, his commitment to both education and spiritual growth set the foundation for his life's work.

Mohinder Singh arrived in Delhi in the early 1980s, stepping into a city that would soon become the heart of his life. Though his roots remained firmly planted in his ancestral home in Ghungrali Sikhan, Punjab, he embraced the bustling energy of New Delhi and made it his own. Over the years, he built a life filled with new connections, traditions, and aspirations.

Alongside him, his elder brother, a devoted Gursikh, dedicated his life to Sikhi and Gurbani, carrying forward the spiritual and philosophical traditions with unwavering faith. His brother's deep devotion and commitment to the teachings of Guru Granth Sahib became an enduring source of inspiration, guiding Mohinder Singh in his own journey and strengthening his connection to his Sikh heritage. Even as the years passed, the echoes of Punjab and the wisdom of Gurbani continued to shape their lives, bridging the space between past and present with a profound sense of belonging.

A Jovial Soul

In addition to his deep spirituality, Singh Ji was also known for his jovial nature. He had a wonderful sense of humor and often cracked jokes, bringing smiles and laughter to everyone around him. His infectious laughter and ability to make light of even the most difficult situations made him approachable and beloved by all. He had a unique ability to bring people together, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere wherever he went. Singh Ji's light-heartedness made it easy for everyone to engage with him, and his presence was always uplifting.

The Athlete of Valor and Bravery

Bhai Mohinder Singh Ji was not just known for his intellectual and spiritual pursuits; his athleticism also left a significant mark. From a young age, it was clear that Singh Ji possessed exceptional athletic abilities. He became a legend in his community, particularly for his prowess in throwball and kabaddi. His strategic thinking, sharp reflexes, and raw strength on the field earned him respect and admiration.

Beyond his athleticism, Singh Ji's inner strength, charisma, and striking looks also captured the hearts of those around him. His courage and valor extended far beyond the sports arena, and whether on the field or in his daily life, he was a person of honor and integrity.

A Loving and Inspiring Father

S. Mohinder Singh Ji was a **devoted and loving father** to his three daughters, always encouraging them to pursue higher education and reach their fullest potential. His support was unwavering, both emotionally and financially. He instilled in them the values of **hard work**, **dedication**, and **service to the community**, ensuring that they grew up with a strong foundation in both spirituality and education.

As his daughters grew older, each married and settled into their lives. His **son-in-laws** became like sons to him, and he shared a bond with them that was filled with **love**, respect, and admiration. The entire family cherished his wisdom, kindness, and sense of humor. His legacy lives on through them, and his **grandchildren** were no exception.

S. Mohinder Singh Ji's **grandchildren** held a special place in his heart. He showered them with love, affection, and care, and they adored him in return. Singh Ji took the time to teach them the **sacred shabads (hymns)** of the **Guru Granth Sahib**, guiding them in the ways of the Guru and instilling in them a love for Gurbani from an early age. He made sure they understood the importance of **devotion to God**, helping them develop a spiritual connection that would stay with them for life.

His teachings weren't just about religion; he also inspired his grandchildren to live a healthy, balanced life. Singh Ji emphasized the importance of **good health**, encouraging them to exercise, eat well, and maintain both physical and mental well-being. His wisdom was a guiding light in their lives, and his influence shaped the way they approached life, spirituality, and their personal growth.

His **grandchildren** have fond memories of him, and they continue to carry forward his teachings, cherishing the lessons he imparted on them. Whether it was reciting shabads together, sharing moments of laughter, or receiving words of encouragement, they hold dear the bond they shared with their beloved grandfather.

Singh Ji's commitment to spiritual wisdom was reflected not only in his scholarly works but also in the thoughtful names he chose for his daughters. At a time when naming conventions were often overlooked, he meticulously researched and selected names that carried deep Sikh significance. Each name was a reflection of the values he held dear—strength, devotion, and connection to the divine. His profound understanding ensured that his children would carry names imbued with meaning, serving as lifelong reminders of their heritage and faith. His foresight and

intellect shone through this seemingly simple yet deeply impactful gesture, leaving his daughters with an enduring gift of identity and purpose.

Thank you Daddy, the names you chose for us were more than just words—they were gifts of identity, purpose, and faith. Thank you for this lifelong blessing, for making sure our names reflect strength, devotion, and the beauty of Sikh teachings. Your thoughtfulness has shaped who we are, and we will always carry your wisdom with us.

"Sharanagat" kaur :

(शरणागत) means one who has taken refuge or surrendered. It combines "shara" (शरा) meaning shelter or refuge and "agat" (अगत) meaning one who has come or arrived. In the context of Hinduism, particularly in the Vaishnavite tradition, it refers to the act of total surrender to a higher power, like God (Narayana-Krishna).

"Gursharan" Kaur:

The first name "Gursharan" in Punjabi typically means "devotion to the Guru" or "sheltered by the Guru." The surname "Kaur" is a common Punjabi surname, traditionally meaning "princess" or "a female of noble birth." Therefore, the name "Gursharan Kaur" can be interpreted as "a princess who is devoted to the Guru" or "a female of noble birth, sheltered by the Guru."

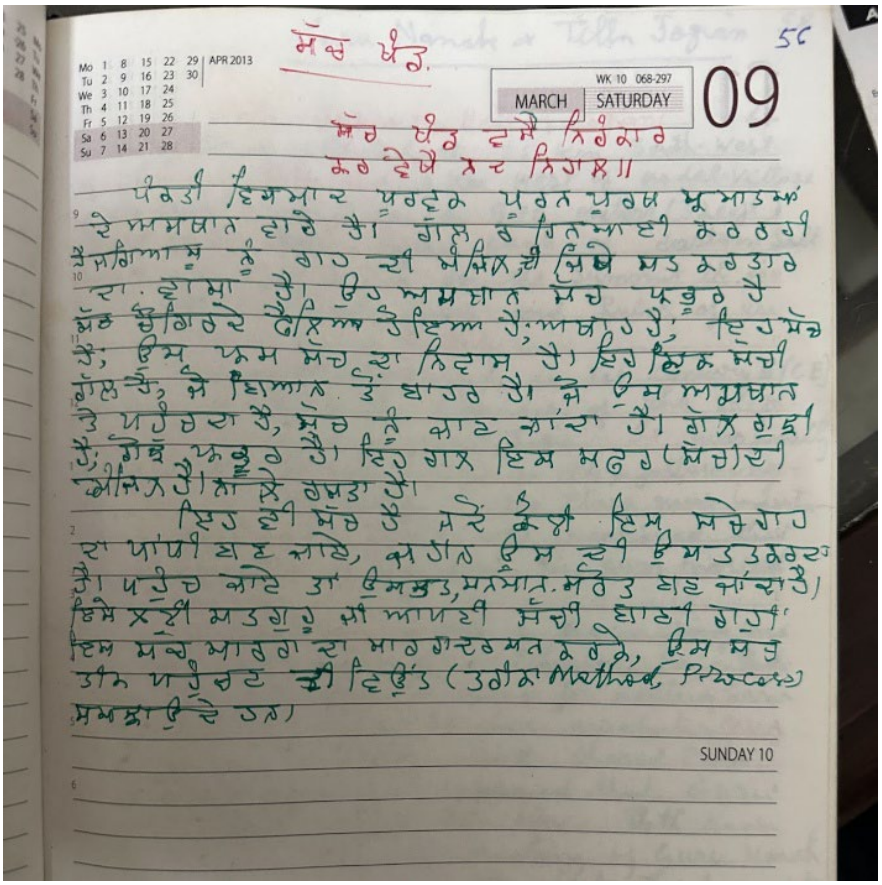
"Harsimran" Kaur:

The name Harsimran, of Sikh origin, means "remembrance of God" or "one who remembers God". It's a name that embodies the practice of meditating on or remembering God, a central concept in Sikhism.

Professional Career

In pursuit of a stable career, Bhai Mohinder Singh Ji moved to **Delhi**, where he joined the **National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC)** at **Nehru Place**. His dedication to his work was evident, and he excelled in his professional role. After years of service, Singh Ji retired voluntarily from the company in **1995**, having contributed immensely to his field. However, he remained committed to public service, turning his focus towards teaching and spiritual endeavors.

Literary Work and Contribution to the Translation of Gurbani



Singh Ji's most significant contribution to Sikhism was his hand-written translation of **Gurbani**. His deep spiritual understanding allowed him to approach the sacred texts with great reverence and insight. He undertook the monumental task of transcribing the hymns from the **Guru Granth Sahib** and other sacred Sikh texts into **Gurmukhi** and **English**.

These translations were not simply word-for-word conversions. Singh Ji's translations preserved the nuanced meanings, poetic beauty, and spiritual depth of the original hymns. He also included footnotes and explanations that drew from **Sikh philosophy**, **history**, and the interpretations of earlier scholars. His work became invaluable for those unable to read **Gurmukhi**, allowing them to connect with the wisdom of the **Sikh Gurus**.

Singh Ji's devotion extended far beyond his intellectual pursuits. For over a decade, he dedicated a significant portion of his life to teaching at the **Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha** in **Greater Kailash** and participating in various community activities. His approach to translating **Gurbani** was rooted in the belief that knowledge should serve as a tool for **spiritual growth**, not just an academic exercise.

His life embodied the **Sikh ideals** of **Seva** (selfless service) and **Simran** (remembrance of God). Singh Ji's unwavering dedication to these ideals earned him the love and respect of his peers. His efforts to make the teachings of the **Gurus** accessible to everyone earned him the title of a **spiritual translator** in the truest sense.

Later Years and Legacy

S. Mohinder Singh Ji's life serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring importance of **faith**, **service**, and a deep, personal connection with the **Guru**. His translations have ensured that the sacred wisdom of the **Sikh Gurus** reaches hearts and minds across generations. His legacy continues to shine brightly, and his influence remains profound in the lives of all who have been touched by his work.

His commitment to the principles of **devotion**, **service**, and the pursuit of **spiritual knowledge** is a beacon for all Sikhs, reminding them that the pursuit of truth and devotion to the Guru is the ultimate goal of life.

His spiritual understanding was profound, guiding him with unwavering faith and kindness. Yet, alongside his devotion, his intellectual curiosity never faded. With an impeccable command over both English and Punjabi, he seamlessly bridged cultures and conversations, always eager to expand his horizons. Even at the age of 80, his thirst for knowledge remained unquenched—he had embarked on the journey of learning Urdu, proving that a true seeker never stops growing. As I look through his many written works, I find Urdu language learning books among them, a testament to his relentless pursuit of understanding. His wisdom was not just in what he knew, but in his constant desire to explore, learn, and connect.

"Unspoken Words and an Irreplaceable Absence"

There are moments when I find myself wishing he had stayed just a little longer—long enough for one more conversation, one more chance to say everything that was left unsaid. There were words that never found their way out, thoughts that lingered in silence, and emotions too deep to put into sentences. If only there had been more time, perhaps I could have understood him more, learned the stories he had yet to share, and asked the questions I never thought to ask.

Dad's passing has left a void so profound that no words can truly capture its depth. He was more than a father—he was our spiritual compass, the guiding light who illuminated the path of faith and wisdom. His knowledge, unwavering belief, and sacred understanding were unmatched in our family, and now, in his absence, we find ourselves searching for guidance that feels impossible to replace. Without him, who will lead us, who will share the wisdom that shaped our hearts and strengthened our souls? This loss is not just personal; it is an irreparable fracture in the very fabric of our family's spiritual foundation. Though we carry his teachings and his love within us, the journey ahead feels uncertain, and the weight of his absence is immeasurable.

And then there's my mother, navigating a world that suddenly feels emptier without him. He was her anchor, her source of unwavering love and support. Always guiding her through **Naam Jap**, he instilled in her the power of devotion and spiritual discipline. Now, in his absence, she clings to that practice even more—finding solace in the sacred repetition, drawing strength from the very teachings he imparted. Each whispered prayer is a bridge to him, a continuation of the

guidance he so lovingly offered. Grief has woven itself into her existence, yet somehow, she finds ways to move forward—because that's what he would have wanted. Still, the absence is undeniable, and the longing never truly fades.

She built her world around him—not just as his wife, but as someone who saw life through his eyes, heard the world through his ears, and felt its weight through his presence. Every decision, every moment, was intertwined with him, as if her existence was a quiet reflection of his. Now, that world has shifted, and grief sits heavily upon her, settling in the spaces where his voice once guided her. Yet, in the midst of this unbearable absence, she stands before us as something so much more than her sorrow.

To us, her daughters, she is unbreakable—a force of quiet resilience, carrying the weight of loss with grace, shielding us from the depths of her anguish. She strengthens us, telling us to find peace, to move forward, even as we see the fragility in her eyes, the exhaustion in her steps. We know how hard it is for her—how every breath carries his memory, how every prayer reaches for him in ways words cannot express. And yet, she does not waver, holding us steady even as the storm rages within her.

She is mourning, she is grieving, and yet she is surviving. And in her survival, she gives us the strength to carry on, to believe that healing is possible—even when the heart feels shattered beyond repair.

In Every Whisper, In Every Light....

My father was not just a man of words—he was a man of love, of devotion, of quiet strength. His presence filled our home like sunlight, warm and unwavering, wrapping us in guidance that needed no grand gestures, no elaborate speeches. It was in the way he lived, the way he gave, the way he carried his faith so effortlessly.

Even now, when the world feels too vast and my footsteps falter, I close my eyes and hear him. In the melodies of kirtan that still hum through the walls of our home, in the sacred wisdom he so carefully translated, ensuring we would never be without guidance. I feel him in the laughter of my children, in the love that he instilled in me, passed down like a whispered prayer from generation to generation.

He is not gone—not truly. Somewhere beyond this world, in a place of peace, I know he smiles. Not in farewell, but in certainty that I will carry forward what he left behind. His light does not fade; it simply moves into the hearts of those who loved him, into the hands of those who continue his work. And as long as we speak his name, and walk his path—he will always be here.

We hold onto the words my father always greeted eveyone with—

"Wish you all the best, and Guru Bhala Karega"

These were not just greetings; they were his way of spreading kindness, hope, and faith to everyone he met.

His presence was a blessing, his love unconditional, and his wisdom a guiding light.

Though he is no longer with us, his words remain, carrying his spirit forward, reminding us that love endures and blessings continue.

May we always honour him by sharing the goodness he so effortlessly gave.

"The Weight of Your Absence"

You are everywhere,
and yet nowhere—
gone from the world's grasp
but cradled in my blood,
a longing that pulses through my every vein.

I call for you in the quiet,
reach for you in the empty spaces,
but only the wind answers—
soft, familiar,
like the way you alwyas whispered my name.

How do I live in a world
that does not carry your shadow?
How do I breathe
when every breath just whispers you are gone?
A truth my heart still struggles to hold on.

And yet, you remain—
in the rhythm of my heart,
in the weight of my name,
in the love that neither time nor death
could steal away.

In your light I will carry on ....your darling daughter

Nishu